

**PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION  
TOWN OF NEEDHAM, MASSACHUSETTS**

**DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

**December 10, 2015**

*Background notes for Monday, December 14<sup>th</sup>  
Park and Recreation Commission Agenda*

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**COMMISSION MEETING**

The Park and Recreation Commission meeting will be held at the Needham Public Library Community Room on Monday, December 14<sup>th</sup>. They will be in the left section of the room, and PPBC will be in the larger right hand section. The Commission will join the PPBC for a joint meeting on the Rosemary Pool design project at 8:45 PM.

The Commission was scheduled to meet on November 23<sup>rd</sup>, but due to some unexpected scheduling conflicts, did not have a quorum to meet, so all business from the 11/23 meeting has been moved to the 12/14 agenda. As the Commission was scheduled to meet with RTS Superintendent Greg Smith that night, two members of the Commission stayed to talk about trash removal at parks, and will report the information to the board at Monday's meeting.

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**LAND SWAP PROPOSAL**

The Town Manager has put together a FIRST DRAFT of a proposal to discuss the swapping of jurisdictions, primarily between the Selectmen, the Park and Recreation Commission, and the School Committee. This is not a formal plan, but a starting point for discussion between the three boards. A joint public hearing will be scheduled over the winter for public input.

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**EVERSOURCE**

The Commission will have two separate discussions related to Eversource projects. The first discussion will be a continuation of the project to remove trees within the easement areas of the transmission lines. Eversource contractors have completed the work along the rail trail, and will be preparing to do the work at DeFazio shortly. A meeting with Commission representatives is currently being scheduled. The second discussion is for a different project that would bring electric lines below ground within the Greendale Avenue property under the Commission's jurisdiction. The location under discussion is the former gravel pit and access path to Greendale Avenue.

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**EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS TABLE TOP EXERCISE**

I was an observer of a table top exercise recently, presented by the Town's Emergency Management team that reviewed the process for handling an issue related to Town water contamination. Town staff members and representatives from the state, including MA Emergency Management, participated in the conversation on the process to follow if there was contamination of Town water. In most cases, Park and Recreation's involvement would relate to communication. If a "boil water" order was posted, we would need to provide information to participants in any of our impacted programs, as well as to all who are using parks and athletic fields. In addition to contacting our

participants, we would also use other methods to help the Town get information out, including our e-mail lists from on-line registration, from the website's Notify Me (Field Status, Recreation Information, and others), and our social media outlets, including Facebook and Instagram. The representatives of various state divisions were impressed with Needham's ability to react quickly this past summer, when there was a false positive test, and to follow-up with this table top, to put in place even more effective measures in the event of an actual emergency. Observers attended from many local institutions, including Beth Israel Deaconess-Needham, Olin College, Walker School, and Briarwood.

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### **CONGRATULATIONS**

Assistant Director Robyn Fink became an aunt for the first time this week, with the birth of her nephew Sawyer. She was able to make a quick visit home to Georgia to be there when he was born, and is returning with lots of photos!

Special thanks to Recreation Supervisor Sarah Mallard, Administrative Specialist Kristen Wright, and Robyn for their tremendous work on the re-creation of Cricket Field in gingerbread and other food items. It was presented with other community creations last Sunday at Center at the Heights, as part of the Needham Women's Club *Holiday Homes* events. Give the three of them some gingerbread, pretzels, frosting and candy and you'd be amazed what they can create! Yeah Team Park and Recreation!!

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